

Appendix E

Summary of September 30, 2003 Public Meeting and Community Survey Forms

Progress Report

GS-63-01, Billy Creek Cabins Community, BLM Buffalo Field Office

September 29 – October 3

Work Accomplished**Public Meeting**

A public meeting was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2003 at the Johnson County Fire Hall, Buffalo, WY, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The following individuals attended the pre-meeting:

At 6:30 pm, local residents began to arrive for the meeting. At 6:45 pm, the meeting began. Steve Hannan, BLM, introduced himself and explained why the Billy Creek cabins community was selected by BLM as a Community-At-Risk. Mr. Hannan explained the aspects of the program, and introduced Dynamac Corporation.

Jeff Bass presented a Power Point presentation that highlighted the methodology and findings of the hazard assessment (fuels, structures). Brooke Levy highlighted the findings of the community profile. Jeff and Brooke discussed the proposed actions to be taken to improve the wildland fire hazard conditions in the Billy Creek cabins community. Jeff explained the Firewise Community Program. Wall maps indicating locations of fuel points and proposed actions were available for attendees to view.

After the presentation, a question and answer period ensued. Some residents are concerned about the infestation of pine beetle and what can be done to protect trees from the insect. A resident asked if fire fighters burned some areas to control the recent Big Springs fire; Mark Haines responded that some prescribed burning was used to stop the Big Springs fire from spreading.

Future Work

Oct. 6 – Oct 30: prepare final Hazard and Mitigation reports.

Oct. 31: submit Final reports.

Problems or Concerns

Nothing to report

The following individuals attended the public meeting:

	Name	Address	Agency
1	Steve Hannan	605 Klondike, Buffalo, WY 82834	BLM
2	Bill Bruce Hines	608 W. 5 th , Gillette, WY	
3	Bill Hansen	605 Klondike, Buffalo, WY 82834	BLM
4	Jim Sparks	P.O. 182, Buffalo	BLM
5	Mark Haines	Box 947, Buffalo, WY 82834	JCFD #1
6	Rob Yingling	20 N. Tinsdale, Buffalo, WY 82834	Johnson County
7	Jan and John Kolnik	29139 Old Hwy 87, Buffalo, WY 82834	
8	Larry Long	104 Overland Trail, Buffalo, WY 82834	
9	Bruce Hepp	540 Walters, Buffalo, WY 82834	
10	Lola G. Phearant	Box 128, Buffalo, WY 82834	
11	Warren Atter	615 Klondike, Buffalo, WY 82834	
12	Ron Wright	3981 Swingle Road, Casper, WY	landowner
13	Tom Camino	155 N. Lobban, Buffalo, WY 82834	Johnson County Fire Warden
14	Mike Hostetler	600 Veterans Lane, Buffalo, WY 82834	WY State Forestry Department

Community Questionnaire on Fire Safe Education Programs

To reduce the risk of wildfires, the BLM developed the Community At Risk-Wildland Urban Interface Program. The program seeks to reduce the threat of wildland fire through the prevention and reduction of fuels, increasing fire protection capabilities of communities, and public education. The goal of the program is to decrease the chances of wildfire spreading from public lands onto private or community lands and vice-versa. BLM is assessing the potential for the spread of wildland fire in the urban-wildland interface, and identifying hazards and mitigation methods. You can help by providing information and suggestions on potential assessment and mitigation efforts.

LIVE IN: GILLETTE, WYOMING

1 What town or community do you live in or closest to? CLOSEST TO: BUFFALO, WYOMING

2. How great a risk do you think wildfires pose to your residence?

WILDFIRES POSE A VERY SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR RESIDENCE AS EVIDENCED BY THE RECENT, JULY 19, 2003, LIGHTING INITIATED, BIG SPRINGS FIRE. THIS FIRE DESTROYED APPROXIMATELY 4000 ACRES IN THE BILLY CREEK ACCESS AREA.

3. What areas around your community do you think are an extreme fire hazard and pose a wildfire risk to homes or property?

VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE FORESTED AREAS SURROUNDING THE BILLY CREEK COMMUNITY AREA CONTAIN OLD FOREST TIMBER. CONTAINED IS PLENTIFUL DEAD FALL, DEAD STANDING TREES, DRY FUEL. SINCE 1997, WE HAVE OBSERVED SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF 10-15 YEAR OLD QUAKE ASPEN DIE STANDING.

4. What do you think might be the best way to mitigate, or reduce this hazard?

REDUCE THE FUEL, EDUCATE LAND/CABIN OWNERS, INCORPORATE RINGS OF PROTECTION, BAN SLASH PILE PRIVATE BURNS -OR- HELP MANAGE THESE BURNS IN A CONTROLLED FASHION AND ONLY WITH PROFESSIONALS & EQUIPMENT, BAN FIRE WORKS.

5. Do you know of any recent actions taken by the community, the county, etc., to reduce the risk of wildland fires or to protect residents from wildfires spreading from public land to private?

I AM ONLY AWARE OF THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, UNFORTUNATELY, MY WIFE AND I WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE FIRST MEETING. WE APPRAUSE THE BLM ON THEIR EFFORTS FIGHTING THE BIG SPRINGS FIRE AND ORGANIZING THIS AWARENESS EFFORT.

6. Have there been recent fire reduction education programs in your community? If so, what was the nature of the projects?

NOT AWARE OF ANY PROGRAMS

BLM

(over)

BUFFALO FO

Who sponsored them and when?

NOT AWARE OF ANY PROGRAMS

7. Besides residences and community buildings, are there other locations or properties (may or may not be a structure) that have a high environmental, cultural, or economic value and should be a priority for fire risk reduction?

POISON CREEK CANYON AREA AND THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT
IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO AND JUST SOUTH OF THE USFS BOUNDARY

8. Do you think your community is prepared to combat wildland-urban interface fires?

THE BILLY CREEK COMMUNITY / AREA - NO. BLM AND JOHNSON
COUNTY DEMONSTRATED AN EXCELLENT AND PROFESSIONAL EFFORT
FIGHTING THE RECENT BIG SPRINGS FIRE - THANK YOU.

If not, what do you think could be done to improve your town's wildland-urban interface firefighting capabilities?

EDUCATION, ASSISTANCE WITH FUEL REDUCTION, ASSISTANCE
IN ORGANIZING A COMMUNITY TEAM (TRAINING) IN WHAT TO
DO IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL FIRES, CONTINUED EFFORTS
TO ORGANIZE THE COMMUNITY AT RISK / WILDLAND & URBAN

If we have questions or would like more information, can we contact you?

INTERFACE PROGRAM

Name: RIK AND RANDI* SCHERER

AGAIN

THANK YOU

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Phone: 307 / 686-4106 HOME
307 / 685-4622 WORK
307 / 660-0330 CELL

Thank you for your time and your ideas!